(b) if so, the details of the Government policy and of the foreign airlines who are taking advantage of this policy; and

(c) the benefits accrued or likely to accrue Air India and Indian Airlines by this policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) No open slots at our airports have been offered to foreign commercial aircraft. However, for the peak winter tourist season, Government has adopted open sky policy under which foreign airlines can increase capacity as per demand under commercial arrangement with our national carriers. Lufthansa, Virgin Atlantic, Emirates, Singapore Airlines, Malaysian Airlines and South African Airways have deployed additional capacity under this policy. Our national carriers have gained by way of commercial arrangement.

Smoking at airports

†2008. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people continue to smoke at airports despite the prohibitory boards displayed there by Government;

(b) if so, the number of persons fined for smoking at different airports by Government by the end of 2002; and

(c) the State-wise details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) It is a fact that at times people smoke in the "No Smoking" areas at the airports. Officials of Airports Authority of India (AAI) whenever detect persons smoling in the 'No-Smoking Zone' request them to refrain from smoking in the "No Smoking" area and direct them to the exclusive smoking zones created for this purpose. AAI officials generally take only preventive action in this regard rather than punitive action. During the year 2002, only four cases have been fined and all these four cases occurred at IGI Airport, Delhi.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.